

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/688,930

REMARKS

Claims 6, 8 and 9 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant cancels claim 7 and adds claim 9 by way of this Amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings filed on October 21, 2003 and for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for returning the initialed PTO/SB/08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 21, 2003.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson (5,097,100).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson (5,097,100) in view of Racht et al. (3,621,442).

Analysis

Claim 6 is directed to clad material for lead wire connection, that includes a laminate of a plurality of metal materials having different melting points. The clad material is disposed between a lead wire and a welding tool when the lead wire and a land portion are connected by resistance welding or thermal welding.

Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the plurality of metal materials includes a high melting point material and a low melting point material. The high melting point material separates from the low melting point material when performing the resistance or the thermal welding.

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Jackson discloses the laminated structure of a wire, but fails to disclose the separation of the high melting point material from the low melting point material, as claimed in amended claim 6. Racht also fails to disclose this feature.

In the present invention, according to the above separation feature, the lead wire can be welded to the land portion without contaminating the welding tool. As discussed at paragraphs [0072-0079] of the published application and shown in Figs. 3A-3B, the low melting point material 82 forms on the lead wire 23a. However, the high melting point material 81, which has a melting point higher than that of the material forming the lead wire and the land portion, does not melt with the low melting point material 82, and thus, separates from the low melting point material upon welding. With this feature, the welding tool 64 does not become contaminated with the clad material during welding.

In view of the foregoing, claim 6 is not rendered obvious by Jackson and Racht, either alone or in combination.

Claim 8 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 6, by virtue of its dependency therefrom.

Claim 9 is added to further define the invention. Claim 9 is patentable for similar reasons to claim 6. In particular, none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests the use of a laminate structure in which one of the materials has a higher melting point so that it is easily separable from the low melting point material for facilitating separation from a welding tool after a welding operation.

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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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